

JANUARY 1, 1909.

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"It should require a system of regular reports from all large interstate corporations, to be made to an administrative office, and should provide that that office shall have access to the records of these corporations.

Should Publish Facts.

"It should further provide that that office shall publish the important facts as to corporate operations, so far as they are of public interest, safeguarding at the same time from unnecessary publication all proper business secrets.

"So far as possible, the system should be made voluntary rather than compulsory.

"In exchange for giving this publicity corporations should be allowed to register under such a law so as to obtain a federal standing and the public benefit of their position as concerns not afraid of scrutiny.

"Finally such a system should recognize the fact that there cannot be both prohibition and regulation of combination at the same time and that if the government thus elects to regulate combination it must at least permit a certain reasonable degree thereof and recognize in law what has already become an accomplished fact."

In reference to employers' liability and industrial insurance Secretary Straus says:

"One of the great needs in industrial relations in the United States is a radical change in the law respecting employers' liability. Under our practice no compensation can be collected for injury or death unless such injury or death is due directly to some negligence on the part of the employer or one of his representatives or employees. In probably the majority of cases no one is properly to be blamed for an industrial accident. Modern industry is becoming increasingly more dangerous, and a certain amount of death and injury inevitably results from many of its processes.

"We should recognize that these accidents are and to a certain great extent must always be a part of the regular cost of carrying on certain trades; that they are as much a part of the business economically as the breakage and wear and tear of machinery; that the expense of them should be borne by that business and distributed upon the public and consumers like any other manufacturing cost.

"Justice demands that this burden of industry should not be thrown upon those members of society least able to bear it—upon the victims themselves and their families—as is now the case.

"The best practice in other countries fixes a definite compensation for death or injury based usually upon the earning capacity of the person injured. This enables the employers to estimate with some degree of certainty the additional item necessary to the cost of production. In our present system this item for injury becomes a variable factor as the employer as is de-

ers at home, says Secretary Straus, as many aliens now come to America with little money and a lack of qualifications to do the work they expect to do.

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